

VILLAGE DOG PARK:

JUST THE FACTS

Off-leash parks are growing in popularity across the country because they are not just good for pet owners, they are good for the entire community by activating public green space in a way that brings residents together. In fact, the number of off-leash parks has increased by 20% over the past five years and are now among the fastest-growing segments of municipal parks, according to an April 2015 report from the Trust for Public Land.

With Key Biscayne's very own park finally underway following years of planning, we wanted to dispel some common myths surrounding this critical improvement project:



MYTH: The park was decided without input from the community.

FACT: The park is more than nine years in the making with significant community participation from countless residents and council members who have actively voiced their desire to see a dedicated park of this nature. Most recently, the Council approved the project following overwhelming support from the community in a multitude of publicly noticed meetings where public comments were welcomed.

MYTH: The park's footprint equals the amount of land currently fenced off for construction.

FACT: The construction fence is in place for safety reasons and for storing of equipment. The actual park's footprint is roughly 52% of the fenced off area.

MYTH: The park will limit access to the soccer fields and compromise their function.

FACT: To the contrary, the park will have no impact on the soccer fields, which the Village Council continues to maintain and remains a high priority.

MYTH: The park does not include daily maintenance and thus will be impossible to maintain, especially after rain storms that will leave it overrun with mud.

FACT: The Village is committed to ongoing maintenance and improvements, and has allocated the appropriate funding to do so. Additionally, the park will feature specialized non-crumb rubber turf, which is recognized as the ideal option because it is durable and drains well.

MYTH: The money spent on the park is money that could be spent on more 'important' community upgrades, such as our schools or other facilities.

FACT: Funding for the park has been specifically earmarked for three years and will have no impact on any other community initiatives. The Village has more than enough funds to continue meeting the needs of the community and delivering exceptional services.

MYTH: The park comes at the expense of much-needed green space.

FACT: The park was placed in a small portion of the Village Green that was previously under-utilized. With this in mind, the project will serve to increase public access while the Village continues to acquire additional green space throughout the community

MYTH: The park will be duplicative because the Village already has one.

FACT: The current dog park at 530 Crandon Blvd. was always a temporary location and will close as soon as the new park is complete. The site at 530 Crandon Blvd. will eventually be transformed into an open civic center park.

MYTH: The \$800,000 price tag is far more than we should be spending for a park.

FACT: The project went through a very public and competitive bid process, and selected the lowest responsible bidder. The finished park will embody the same level of quality of similar projects recently completed by the Village and will serve the community for generations to come.

The Village of Key Biscayne is committed to enhancing the quality of life for all residents and this park will help bring people (and their pets) together while also contributing to our broader Village Green. Stay tuned for more information on the park and its progress, including its grand opening, which is anticipated for Fall 2016.

